

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10

L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-04

SAJ-01 RSR-01 /065 W

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R 050825Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4718

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 1791

E.9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, MT, NATO

SUBJ: SPECIAL PAYMENTS TO MALTA

1. WITH NEXT INSTALLMENT UNDER BASE RENTAL AGREEMENT DUE FOR PAYMENT IN LESS THAN MONTH, WE RECALL THAT CONTRIBUTING NATIONS ARE COMMITTED TO INFORMING MINTOFF OF MAGNITUDE OF SPECIAL PAYMENTS FOR REMAINDER CALENDAR 1973 NO LATER THAN OCT 1. WHILE WE REALIZE THAT ALL CONTRIBUTORS MAY NOT YET HAVE PURCHASED STERLING FOR TRANSFER TO UK BY THIS DATE, WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING THIS INFORMATION AND AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE IT TO GOM IN TIME TO MEET OUR COMMITMENT.

2. WHILE SPECIAL PAYMENTS WILL COVER ONLY REMAINDER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1973, OCTOBER 1 INSTALLMENT ON REGULAR BASE RENTAL COVERS PERIOD THROUGH MARCH 31, 1974. IN VIEW OF THIS FACT, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MINTOFF MAY RAISE QUESTION OF SPECIAL PAYMENTS FOR CALENDAR 1974 AT TIME HE RECEIVES FIGURE FOR REMAINDER CALENDAR 1973.

3. LAST EXCHANGE WITH MINTOFF ON THIS SUBJECT ENDED WITH
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CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES PROMISING TO GIVE "SYMPATHETIC

CONSIDERATION" FOR SPECIAL PAYMENTS FOR SUCCEEDING YEAR
IF EXCHANGE RATE SITUATION PROVIDED JUSTIFICATION, (MEMO
HANDED TO MINTOFF MARCH 28, 1973.) "SYMPATHETIC
CONSIDERATION" IS IN EFFECT A COMMITMENT TO SUCH PAYMENTS
WITHOUT ACTUALLY SAYING SO. RATHER THAN GO INTO ANOTHER ACRI-
MONIOUS DISCUSSION WITH MINTOFF WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD
ENDUP IN ACCEDING TO HIS DEMANDS, WE THINK IT WOULD BE
WISER COURSE FOR THE CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES TO VOLUNTEER SUCH
PAYMENTS ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE.

4. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST TO DO THIS BY OCTOBER 1ST
ALTHOUGH DECISION COULD BE POSTPONED FOR 30 TO 60
DAYS BEYOND DATE, USING FACTUAL EXPLANATION, IF REQUESTED,
THAT CONSIDERATION AND DECISION DO REQUIRE SOME TIME.

5. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES AT
NATO HEADQUARTERS SEIZE THIS QUESTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
IN HOPE THAT AGREEMENT ON 1974 SPECIAL PAYMENTS COULD BE
CONVEYED TO MINTOFF AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND HOPEFULLY
BY OCTOBER 1ST. CONTRIBUTORS SHOULD ALSO DECIDE WHETHER
THEY WISE TO CONTINUE PREVIOUSLY CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION.
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